

REMARKS

The outstanding Office Action of October 2, 2006 rejects claims 1 - 2 and 11 through 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102. However, the outstanding Office Action does indicate that claims 1 through 10, 32 and 33 contain allowable subject matter and that with amendment these claims would be allowed. The application has been amended in response to the Examiner's comments and is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Specifically, newly submitted independent claim 34, claims 1, 2 and 3 combined in rewritten form, defines a seating control system to selectively position and monitor the configuration of the seat and back rest of a powered wheelchair including a seat and a back rest adjustably supported on a carriage having a drive mechanism to power the powered wheelchair. The seating control system comprises a seat positioning mechanism and a back rest positioning mechanism to selectively position the seat and the back rest relative to the carriage and a system control including an input control and a microprocessor to control, monitor and record the position of the seat and the back rest relative to the carriage and to selectively retrieve the recorded seat configuration. The system control includes a means to determine the position of the seat and to generate a seat position signal indicative of the position of the seat relative to the carriage and a means to determine the position of the back rest and to generate a back rest position signal indicative of the position of the back rest relative to the carriage and the seat position mechanism comprises an inflatable seat support and the back rest position mechanism comprises an inflatable back support coupled to an air pressure source to selectively inflate the inflatable seat support and the inflatable back support.

As noted by Examiner White, none of the references either teach or suggest the structure claimed in newly submitted independent claim 34. Accordingly, newly submitted independent claim 34 is believed allowable and such is respectfully requested.

Moreover, dependent claims 4 through 10, 32 and 33 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from newly submitted independent claim 34. While each contains additional structural elements, each of these dependent claims contains all the structural elements of newly submitted independent claim 34 and therefore is also believed in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments contained herein and the discussion in support thereof, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding, in the event that this response does not completely and fully address the matters and issues set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Examiner White is invited to contact Applicant's attorney by telephone in order to expeditiously conclude this prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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